

	<p>IDEM Permit Guide: Becoming Certified as the Operator in Responsible Charge of a Wastewater Treatment Facility</p> <p>www.IN.gov/idem/guides/permit/water/wwoperatorcert.html</p>
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Who May Need to Be Certified

If wastewater is treated, a certified operator is required regardless of the type of facility or discharge. Thus, all operators of municipal, industrial, or industrial pretreatment facilities must be certified.

The non-renewable “operator-in-training” is the most basic level of certification. Beyond that, there are five classes of municipal operator certification, and five classes of industrial wastewater operator certifications. Certifications are permanent in nature but are effective only when validated by a current certification card. All Operator Certification Cards are valid for only 2 years, and expire on June 30th of the second year after which they were first issued or renewed.

Some of the things any first time applicants, and all those wishing to upgrade their certification levels, must do to obtain an IDEM Wastewater Operator Certification Card include (but are not limited to):

- < Submit an application to IDEM to take the certification examination, noting that the application must be postmarked at least 45 days before the exam is held,
- < Pay a \$30 application fee,
- < Receive IDEM approval - that the applicant has the educational level and experience necessary to qualify for as a candidate for the specific exam they wish to take - prior to sitting for the exam (approximately 6% to 8% of applicants are ruled ineligible during each exam cycle), and
- < Score seventy (70%) on the exam to gain initial certification or to upgrade certification levels.

Those planning to take the certification examination may prepare for it however they wish. Many continuing education course providers also offer exam preparation and basic wastewater treatment courses.

Renewal notices are issued prior to June 1st of each year, and those applicants wishing merely to renew their Operator Certification Card at their existing certification level must:

- < Make certain proof of their continuing education contact hours has been forwarded to IDEM,
- < Respond to the Renewal Notice sent by IDEM to all those whose Certification Card

- < is scheduled to expire in that year, and
- < Enclose a \$30 application fee with that response.

What to Expect

Examinations are given at least once annually (in May) at three or more different testing sites. All exams must be graded within 60 days, although most are graded within 30 days, and Certificates and Certification Cards are issued to all those who pass the exam. Although individual scores are confidential, the lists of which applicants pass, and which fail, are public information. Renewal Certification Cards are mailed out beginning in mid-June of each year.

For Additional Information

To learn more about IDEM's Wastewater Operator Certification program, to obtain a list of approved training providers, to secure an application form for the exam, or for additional information on Certification Card renewal, contact:

Dyian Jones
Phone: 317/233-0419
E-mail: djones@dem.state.in.us,

More information also is available on the IDEM Office of Water Quality "Wastewater Certification and Continuing Education" page at
<http://www.in.gov/idem/water/facmang/oats/index.html>.

Information there includes:

- < Certification Information
- < Continuing Education Information
- < Exam Preparation Materials, and
- < Forms, Applications, and Application Instructions

Additional phone contacts include:

Debbie Dubenetzky

Acting Section Chief
ddubenet@dem.state.in.us
317/ 233-5747

Kevin Green

Semi-Public Facilities
kgreen@dem.state.in.us
317/ 233-3555

Philip Preston

Industrial and Pretreatment Facilities
ppreston@dem.state.in.us
317/ 232-8728

Christine Hightower

Certification Officer

chightow@dem.state.in.us

317/ 232-6666

Natalie Green

Acting Continuing Education Coordinator

ngreen@dem.state.in.us

317/ 233-0479

Barbara McDowell

Laboratory Assistance

bmcdowel@dem.state.in.us

317/ 233-6464

Dyian Jones

Certification Administrative Assistant

djones@dem.state.in.us

317/ 233-0419

Disclaimer

This permit guide is intended to provide background information which should be useful in planning for a particular project that may require an environmental permit. It does not substitute for consultation with the appropriate regulatory agency and/or the appropriate rules or statute.